

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
September 14, 2015**

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Mary Beachley	Kitty Devilbiss			Ray Brown
John Brown	Sue Ramsburg			Dana French
Elizabeth Chung	Carolyn True			Meg Motter
Ernell Graham				Cindy Powell
Carol Haag				Thea Ruff
M.C. Keegan-Ayer				Sonja Sperlich
Tom Lawler				
Dianne Lewis				
Randy McClement, Mayor				
Tish Raff				
Katie Rhinehart-Hemler				
Bobbie Speace				

- I. **Call to Order** – Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Carol welcomed all attendees.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – Mary Beachley would like to talk about the Seniors First Committee that she and Tish were recently appointed to. Carol would like to talk about a retreat and an annual report to the County Executive and County Council.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the August 10th meeting were approved with minor changes to the list of attendees. Mary Beachley made a motion to approve the minutes and Dianne Lewis seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. **Adult Evaluation and Review Services, Meg Motter** – Meg distributed some information regarding the AERS program. The

primary mission of this program is to keep people out of the nursing home and help them age successfully at home. Although they do evaluate some adults with disabilities, the main portion of their clientele is the elderly. Meg went over some recent calls to the program which came from various sources. There is a wide range of types of calls/needs. Many times families/caregivers do not know what services are needed or available until they actually need services. It is better to plan ahead than to call in crisis. It is getting more difficult to get a senior placed in a long term care facility. The staff of AERS historically was able to complete a 3871b (level of care) document with a physician's signature. This form would establish that a client met a medical/financial need to be placed in a nursing home and apply for long term medical assistance. Now a senior must physically be in the nursing home before applying for long term care. Long term care Medicaid clients are not easily placed in nursing homes due to reimbursement restraints. AERS staff can help explain the steps necessary when families are going through the process.

One of the tools used to determine the needs of a client is the Statewide Evaluation Planning Services (STEPS). This evaluation is a five page assessment administered by a nurse or social worker. A second evaluation is the inter-RAI (International Resident Assessment Instrument) which is 22 pages. Although this is a considerably lengthy, it is a good tool to accurately reflect the client's medical condition. One downfall is that it can be exhausting for the client. This is used for clients who have community based Medicaid benefits.

There are several Community Options program choices. These are all waivers which allow funding to be used to provide services in the home instead of having a client placed in a nursing home. There are different levels of care provided based on the needs of the client. These clients must have community based Medicaid. The primary way to access waiver services is to qualify for them during a nursing home stay. Otherwise there is a continuously growing wait list.

A PASRR is a Pre Admission Screen Resident Review. The intent of the program was to protect residents with mental/intellectual disabilities (who have Medicaid) against inappropriate nursing home placement. The AERS staff provides a neutral party assessment to determine if a level of care is met. One last program is the Elderly grant home-based counseling program. This grant allows persons 60 or older who are homebound and need mental health services to receive these services in the home.

The need for these programs is growing and there will be additional staff available soon to help implement them. It is very difficult to determine how many people are in need of services who are not receiving them. The program staff see about one thousand people a year but there are probably many more who need assistance. The level of needs can vary from a daily visit, home delivered meals, to a true need for nursing home placement. There is collaboration being done between the agencies that provide these services. Although formal meetings are infrequent, there is an almost daily communication via phone calls and/or emails.

VI. Director's Report, Needs Assessment Recommendations/Status, N4A Conference Summary, Carolyn True -

Carolyn sent out a report via email review regarding the recommendations and the steps which have been taken. There have been three new staff positions posted and interviews are in the process. The hope is to have at least two new staff, Program Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator, hired by mid October. There are two new contracts to provide some respite services. There is \$50,000 of funding available for FY'15 and FY'16 each. This respite assistance is greatly needed to give family caregivers a break. The state has provided one time funding for MAP services. The funding would allow the hire of a part time, temporary staff person to complete Level One screen to qualify individuals to be placed on a registry for Community Medicaid services. There is planning in place for a dental clinic which will be sponsored by FMH and partnered with the University of Maryland Dental School. Carolyn is now serving on the county's Housing Coalition and will make sure the needs of older adults are represented.

Carolyn attended the N4A conference which was held in Philadelphia in July. One of the workshops was in regard to care transitions and how communities are going to be working with local hospitals to provide care in the community. The DoA has been meeting with staff at FMH and it was good to get ideas from other AAAs. There is work to be done here on how to proceed. Many other areas are having the same questions about processes. There will be a consultant attending the state meeting in December to help with brainstorming. There was a workshop during the conference which focused on data collection. The AAA in Akron Oh has done a lot of work in this area and has developed a data tool. Carolyn recently had a conference call with the data company and the county IT staff. The tool created allows for other agencies to see client information from fellow agencies. The IT department may be able to adapt for local use. It would be beneficial for local agencies to meet and discuss options and how to make them work successfully. There will be no federal funding to assist with the implementation of this type of tool.

VII. Business Task Force Update, Tom Lawler – Tom reported that Heather Kirby, FMH VP of Care Services presented information about the different outreach efforts being done by the hospital. There is incentive in place by CMS to encourage the hospital to provide services in the community to keep readmission down. Another area the hospital is working on is care transitions which involves follow-up by hospital staff to ensure the patient is following medical instructions, attending follow-up doctor visits, and maintaining proper medication administration. However lack of funds and/or transportation is sometimes a barrier to continued care. Another initiative is Capital Coordinated Medicine which is a physician practice that specializes in geriatric populations and provides some home visits. There will be a member from Heather's team who will be attending future Business Task Force meetings. Elizabeth added that there is a great need for outreach and an ability to connect services.

Update on Housing, Transportation, Workforce Services, Carolyn True – This information was sent out via email prior to the meeting. Carolyn reviewed briefly the changes that recently occurred to some of these departments.

Elder Expo, Ernell Graham – Ernell has been working on the display board. She also stated that she still needs photos from some Commission members. There is a need for an updated member list for the board. There are few of the brochures left from previous years. Katie will see if she has a revised updated brochure which can be printed. Carol stated there is still a need for candy donations. Donations can be dropped off at the Dept of Aging. There will also be a sign-up sheet for those interested in membership on the Commission or participating on one of the committees.

VIII. Funds for Commissions and Boards, Carol Haag, Carolyn True – There may be an opportunity for the Commission to request some funding to support their mission. Some items suggested are permanent badges, business cards, United Seniors of Maryland membership dues, out of county travel, and printing as so many reports need to be printed. This request for funding is being offered to all Commissions that operate in Frederick County Government. The money would need to be requested during the appeal portion of the budget cycle. Carolyn can send a dollar amount to Margaret Nusbaum to be included during the budget cycle.

Letter to County Executive Gardner concerning Legislative Issues – Tish Raff Tish created a letter regarding legislative requests for submission to the County Executive. A copy of the letter

was sent to everyone via email prior to today's meeting. Tish summarized the requests submitted. The requests were:

- adequate funding
- income tax subtraction modification for income of those 70 and older
- a tax credit for home improvement for aging in place
- legislation for caregiver support
- an on-going credit for long term care insurance
- death with dignity legislation
- budget support to help stop elder abuse
- additional budget support

Tish stressed the importance of contacting your legislators. The website is very user friendly and there is the ability to get updates on issues if you have a specific interest. Carol added that the letter has been submitted to the County Executive.

Annual Report, Carol Haag – Carol stated that there is a need to continue work on the strategic plan and an annual report. She passed around calendars for October and November so that members could indicate days they would be available for an all day retreat. Dana French is at today's meeting and he has indicated interest in facilitating the retreat. Carol will pass along the information from previous endeavors.

IX. Nominating Committee, Katie Rhinehart-Hemler - No report at this time.

By-Laws Committee, Dianne Lewis, Carol Haag – Carol stated that members will get the suggested changes in writing and then after thirty days members can take a vote on suggestions. Dianne reviewed a few suggested changes at today's meeting. Many of the changes at this point are very minor. Carol stated that the ordinance which is in place makes it difficult to make any changes to the by-laws. The Commission will need to work with Carolyn and Pat Rosensteel to develop a staff report. Some things that should be included in legislation for the Commission; the CoA is mandated by the Older American Act, listing the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the Commission, and the qualifications of demonstrated interest of potential members.

Partners in Care, Ernell Graham – No report at this time.

09/14/15

X. Announcements -

Cyndi White will be moving out of state and has resigned from the Commission.

Mary Beachley spoke regarding the Senior First which is a work group created by County Executive Gardner to review how services work together. Tish and Mary will be part of this work group. There is a lot of potential to brainstorm and think outside the box. The first meeting will be October 7th at 10am in Winchester Hall. During the first meeting they will look at the senior needs assessment and other senior issues.

XI. Public Comment – Sonja Sperlich spoke at today's meeting regarding recent events in regard to the status of CCRC/Montevue. There has been on-going mediation between the community members, the County, the current facility leasee, Aurora. There was a recent announcement of a public hearing for a budget amendment to provide \$800,000 for capital project funding. If mediation is unsuccessful, there is the possibility of the County using eminent domain to recapture ownership of the facility. This budget transfer is needed to pursue this avenue. Sonya invited everyone to contact their council persons to garner support for this transfer. She also asked for members to attend the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th at 7pm at Winchester Hall. If you cannot attend the meeting, please email your support to councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov Carol offered to attend the meeting and speak on behalf of the CoA in support of this budget transfer. Katie made a motion to support this effort, Bobbie seconded the motion.

XII. Adjournment -

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary